

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed 9/27/04, the Examiner required election of one of following groups: Group I, comprising Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 14; and Group II, comprising Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16. The applicants hereby elect Group II (Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16) without traverse. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, and 14 have been cancelled in response to the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims (or similar claims) in one or more divisional applications.

Applicants note that all amendments, cancellations, and additions of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),¹ and without waiving the right to prosecute the cancelled claims (or similar claims) in the future.

¹

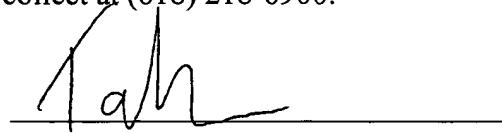
65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept., 8, 2000).

CONCLUSION

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

Dated:

10/27/04



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